

TOWNS FOR VISITS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN

DETAILS OF MERCHANTS AND MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION'S FIRST TRIP NEARING COMPLETION.

PLANNING TO SECURE LOW EXCURSION RATES TO PITTSBURG DURING FALL MONTHS.

PITTSBURG, June 14.—Details for the plan to let several hundred thousand West Virginians know that Pittsburg business men would like to meet them are rapidly nearing completion. All the towns have been selected, and it is possible that a few more will be added. As far as is known the tour will be made early next month. J. W. Wardrop, manager of the Merchants & Manufacturers' Association, under whose auspices the trip is to be made, says that he is now waiting for a reply from the officials of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company, when the date will be announced.

Members of the organization are taking an intense interest in the move, and letters from prominent citizens of West Virginia towns indicate that they will be well received. Every day there is some inquiry as to when the hustling visitors may be expected; supplemented with the statement that it is intended to give official and formal welcome. No business will be transacted, the object being to get acquainted.

The towns and the order in which they will be visited are: Wheeling, Moundsville, West Martinsville, Sistersville, St. Clairsville, St. Marys, W. Va., Marietta, Ohio; Parkersburg, Cairo, Pennsboro, Salem, Clarksburg, Weston, Buckhannon, Grafton, Philippi, Belington, Elkins, Parsons, Thomas, Davis, Keyser, Piedmont, W. Va.; Cumberland, Md.; Fairmont, Mannington, Morgantown, W. Va.; Uniontown and Connellsville, Pa.

During August and October special railroad excursion rates will be secured. During September low rates to the Pittsburg Exposition obtain, and it was found unnecessary to ask for them during that month. During the fall period buyers from these towns, who will no doubt make many purchases, are expected to visit the Smoky City.

MR. CLEVELAND'S LITERARY WORK

The Critic.

The completeness of ex-President Cleveland's withdrawal from political activity is shown by his pre-occupation with literary work. A month ago he put the finishing touches on a paper of about 10,000 words on the government bond issues that excited considerable controversy during his administration; and he has prepared during the month just closed a similar paper on the strike riots in Chicago, which were ended by his sending troops to protect the mails in transit through that city. The publication of a book has been suggested to him which should be composed of these two essays and two others which appeared a few years since—one on "The Independence of the Executive," in the "Atlantic Monthly," and one on the Venezuela boundary case, in the "Century Magazine," with possibly an additional chapter on the acquisition of Hawaii by the United States. It is possible that this important work will appear some time before the November elections. In the course of the summer, it is likely that Mr. Cleveland will devote a part of his leisure to the writing of certain papers on fishing and duck-shooting, in the manner of those that he has already published.

NOTICE.

I still have some very pretty dress hats, street shapes, and flowers on hand. Will sell you at your own price this week. Mrs. Laura Frazer, 423 Jackson street.

In Kansas City recently a three-story brick house was raised 160 feet up a steep bluff. The house was carried on a strong framework of timbers and raised by the turning of 300 jacks divided into 30 groups.

If you are in need of a bicycle we carry a complete line from \$20 to \$40. J. L. Hall's Hardware Store.

TRAINING OUR GUNNERS

Great Care Observed in the Selection of Gun Pointers—Use of the Dotter.

It is only half the work to arm and equip ships with the most improved guns and sights; they must also have a highly trained personnel capable of manipulating guns, turrets and torpedoes, writes Lieutenant Commander Gleaves in the World's Work. When China found herself arrayed against Japan she offered \$500 cash per month for skilled gun-pointers, but, in all great navies, gun-pointers are trained, not bought, and, when the fight is on, it is too late for instruction.

How does a man become an expert gunner? Diligent drill and constant training are not enough without a certain amount of natural aptitude. One man after another is tried. A few days' drill in the turrets eliminates all except the fairly promising. For the talent of eye and nerve which marks the born gun-pointer the government pays from \$2 to \$10 a month in addition to the regular pay. This premium is not confined to any race, creed or color. On one vessel in the navy, one of the gun-pointers is a negro.

Selecting gun-pointers is one of the most important duties in the navy. Having selected the men for gun-pointers, the next step is to train them. Two methods are now in vogue, both having the same principle, but differing in detail. In the old days of sails and smooth-bore guns, the invariable rule—and the only rule the gun captains knew—was this: "Fire at the top of the downward roll (just as the ship begins to roll toward the target), and aim at the enemy's water line." This rule lasted far into the age of steam and turret guns, and has only recently been supplanted by "continuous aim firing," or the art of keeping a gun trained on the target, regardless of the oscillations of the vessel during the whole or a portion of the roll.

The method of training men by the new system—by the use of a "dotter"—was devised by Captain Perry Scott, of the British navy. The dotter is a mechanical device which causes a small target to move across the face of a gun, with a combined vertical and horizontal motion. The gun-pointer must make the gun follow the target, and whenever the sights are on the bull's eye, he presses a button. This causes a pencil to dot the target. That is his shot. The other method of instruction is with the Morris tube, which consists of a small gallery rifle fitted on the gun, to take the place of the "dotter" pencil.

So proficient have the bluejackets become in handling the turret guns, that in actual target practice on board the Alabama a 13-inch gun is loaded and fired in 38 seconds. Two kinds of target practice are employed now in all navies; one in which the target is stationary and the ship moving; the other in which both ship and target are moving.

A MAGNANTE'S CONFESSION

Down by the livery stable, on a sultry summer day.

Cy Jones got out the checkerboard and challenged me to play. I thought I stood a chance, for I had watched the game a bit; but he started for my king row, I was vanquished when he lit. And everybody laughed and said I had myself to blame.

For thinking that Cy Jones would let me beat him at the game.

That's my earliest disappointment. It embittered my career. I went and got a book and settled down to work severe.

I beat some other players, and then as time went by I thought that maybe I was strong enough to tackle Cy.

But my well-laid calculations seemed to falter and go lame. Cy let me take a man and then jumped three and won the game.

As years went by I had some luck and prospered more or less.

And yet there's just one little thing that spoils my whole success. I know that I am envied as a most sagacious man. Likewise admired or hated for the way that I can plan.

Cy hasn't made much money—but I know that just the same. If ever we play checkers he will beat me at the game.

—Washington Star.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

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ONE LITTLE FLY COST \$25,000.00

An Incident at the Monte Carlo Gambling Tables—The Queer Superstitions of Gamblers.

A common household fly recently alighted on No. 13 on the roulette table in one of the gambling rooms at Monte Carlo says Pearson's "Weekly." The players had suffered a persistent run of bad luck. Was this an omen of changing fortune? The superstitious did not hesitate. Within a few moments the "middle-dozen"—that is, the numbers 13 to 24—were liberally covered with stakes.

Quite undisturbed by the feelings it was arousing, the fly walked from No. 13 to No. 10, and then over all the numbers from 10 to 17. To one superstitious old gambler the fly's unconscious action was pregnant with possibilities. He piled napoleons on every one of the lucky squares.

The ivory marble was sent spinning around the roulette wheel; there was a moment of suspense, and then the croupier announced the winning number—13. But what is far more extraordinary the same number came up three times in succession. That fly cost the Casino £5,000.

It is very unusual for colored tourists to be in the neighborhood of this city of riches and ruin, and when, on his way from Mentone to Monte Carlo, there jumped into his compartment five negroes an Englishman well known at the gambling tables saw fortune in the incident. Upon reaching Monte Carlo he at once staked five louis (about \$15 altogether) on black at the fifth table, leaving his money on for a run of five. As luck would have it, his inspiration came out trumps. Five times black turned up, enriching him to the extent of £124.

There are very few habitual gamblers who do not possess some talisman or charm. Yet one seldom hears of any great coup which can be traced directly to some object significant of fortune. There are one or two exceptions, however.

A small piece of common coal is the much cherished possession of the owner of a large estate in Scotland. Though now immensely wealthy, at one period of his life he would not have parted with this piece of coal for a big sum of money. And for this good reason.

A regular visitor to Monte Carlo, infatuated with the gambler's passion, he had found luck entirely against him. Again and again he lost till he was all but ruined. One evening, while wandering, morose and despairing, along the quay, he passed a barge at that moment being unloaded of its coal. As he walked under the swinging crane a piece of the shiny material fell from the carrying bucket into the gambler's coat pocket.

Here was a lucky omen, if you like. Raising all the money he could he determined to stake it all on a last chance. When he left the tables in the early morning he had over 30,000 francs (£1,200) in his possession—his night's winnings. From that time he never left the gaming tables.

except as a winner, sometimes of a small amount, more often of a large. Even to-day the piece of lucky coal accompanies him everywhere.

Followers of the turf are almost as superstitious as gamblers. Dreams of horses are especially considered precursors of fortune.

It was a dream, too, that yielded no less than £20,800 about a year ago to a lucky little Italian boy named Luigi Tiranti. This youngster, employed as errand boy in a home for lost children in Rome, had a dream in which four numbers frequently occurred. So impressed was he with his dream that he put aside his scanty savings till they had reached twelve shillings, then he invested the whole in lottery tickets bearing the magic numbers. A few months afterward he was announced the winner of the enormous sum mentioned.

As a War Preventive.

Indianapolis News.

We do not agree with those who think that arbitration will succeed in putting an end to war—at least not in the near future. But its triumphs have been so signal and so frequent that we must believe that it can prevent many wars. Arbitration, coupled with the deadly efficiency of modern weapons, the fearful cost of war, and the burdens which great armies and navies impose on the people who are beginning to weary of the burden, will certainly circumscribe war and will keep nations from rushing headlong into it.

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